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PEKING 115 31 OCTOBER 1975
TO : SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM : GEORGE BUSH.
REF : PEKING 113

DTG:312619Z UC

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Authority: NND 979520

By: OP NARA Date: 12/2/97

S E C R E T

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ELIMINATE LANGUAGE ALLEGED BY THE US SIDE TO BE OFFENSIVE. DURING HIS VISIT IN 1972, PRESIDENT NIXON SAID THAT NEITHER OF THE TWO SIDES SHOULD ASK THE OTHER TO CHANGE ITS PRINCIPLED POSITION. WE APPRECIATE SUCH AN APPROACH.

"AS FOR THE DRAFT JOINT PRESS STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY THE US SIDE ON OCTOBER 27, FRANKLY IT IS NOT A PRESS COMMUNIQUE OF THE NORMAL NATURE. IN FACT, IT IS A REFURBISHED VERSION OF THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE SUBMITTED BY THE US SIDE ON OCTOBER 22. THE NAME HAS BEEN CHANGED BUT NOT THE SUBSTANCE. THE PRESENT DRAFT STILL ATTEMPTS TO COVER UP DIFFERENCES IN PRINCIPLE BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND CREATES A FALSE IMPRESSION. THIS WILL SERVE NEITHER OF OUR INTERESTS. THE US SIDE HAS TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT SENTENCES IN THE CHINESE DRAFT WHICH, AS A RESULT, HAVE LOST THEIR ORIGINAL MEANING. FOR INSTANCE, THE WORDING ON THE TAIWAN ISSUE DISMEMBERS CHINA'S PRINCIPLED POSITION. FOR THE ABOVE REASONS, THIS UNITED STATES DRAFT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE CHINESE SIDE.

"WE WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THAT IF THERE IS TO BE A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, IT MUST FAITHFULLY REFLECT SINO-US RELATIONS AND THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES. THEREFORE, WE HOPE THAT THE US SIDE WILL RECONSIDER THE CHINESE DRAFT. IF IT HAS ANY AMENDMENTS TO SUGGEST ON SPECIFIC WORDING, WE ARE READY TO LISTEN.

"AS FOR THE PATTERN AND THE ESSENCE, WE MUST BE CONSISTENT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO A COUNTER-PROPOSAL FROM THE US SIDE ON THIS BASIS.

"WITH REGARD TO THE PART IN THE US MESSAGE ABOUT DATES AND PLACE OF PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT AND THE TIME OF HIS ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FROM PEKING, WE KNOW THE CONSIDERATIONS OF THE US SIDE AND RAISE NO OBJECTIONS.

"THE FOREGOING IS THE REPLY FROM THE CHINESE SIDE AND I HOPE YOU WILL REPORT TO THE US SIDE IMMEDIATELY."

2. I ASSURED CHIAO I WOULD DO SO. I THEN RAISED A QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION, ASKING IF CHIAO'S REPLY INDICATES THAT NO FORM OF PRESS STATEMENT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CHINESE SIDE. CHIAO REPLIED: "AS I HAVE MADE VERY CLEAR, THE DRAFT JOINT PRESS STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY THE US SIDE IS NOT A PRESS COMMUNIQUE OF THE NORMAL NATURE. SO I BELIEVE IF YOU WILL MAKE A SERIOUS STUDY OF THE CHINESE SIDE'S REPLY, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION."

3. DCM THAYER ACCOMPANIED ME. CHIAO WAS FLANKED, AS ON OCTOBER 27, BY NANCY TANG, YING, CHAO AND SHIH.

4. COMMENTS: IN MY OPINION WE ARE NOT GOING TO GET ANY EARLY AGREEMENT TO A SATISFACTORY JOINT COMMUNIQUE OR JOINT PRESS STATEMENT CONTAINING ANY SUBSTANCE. MY OWN JUDGMENT IS THAT AT THIS POINT HE SHOULD ADVISE CHIAO THAT WE ARE ACCEPTABLE TO NO STATEMENT WHATSOEVER OR TO A VERY SIMPLE

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PRESS COMMUNIQUE WHICH WOULD SET OUT THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE VISIT: WHO THE PRESIDENT SAW, WHERE HE WENT, ETC., AND PERHAPS INCLUDE A SENTENCE OR TWO ON "FRANK AND FRIENDLY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS," AND REFERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE.

END PAGE 2

5. IF WE ADOPT THE "NO COMMUNIQUE, NO STATEMENT" POSTURE, WE WILL NEED TO DO SOME GROUNDWORK IN THE USA TO LAY TO REST THE "JUNKET" CRITICISM THAT KEEPS SURFACING. THIS CAN BEST BE DONE, IN MY OPINION, BY STRESSING THE FOUR-YEAR INTERVAL SINCE OUR TOP LEADERS HAVE MET.

6. IF THERE IS ANY MAGIC TO A NOVEMBER 3 ANNOUNCEMENT, I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE INSTRUCTION BY 8 AM PEKING TIME TOMORROW (NOVEMBER 1) SO THAT I CAN GET BACK TO THE CHINESE. HOWEVER, CHIAO, OF COURSE, IS BUSY WITH THE SCHMIDT VISIT, AND WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE WILL BE GOING TOMORROW TO NANKING AND/OR URUMCHI WITH THE CHANCELLOR.

7. I WILL FORWARD MY VIEWS ON THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE VISIT IN A SEPARATE CABLE.

8. WARM REGARDS.

GEORGE BUSH

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